



# BLACKOUT

# 2

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# SUPERMAN

## IN ACTION COMICS

APPROVED  
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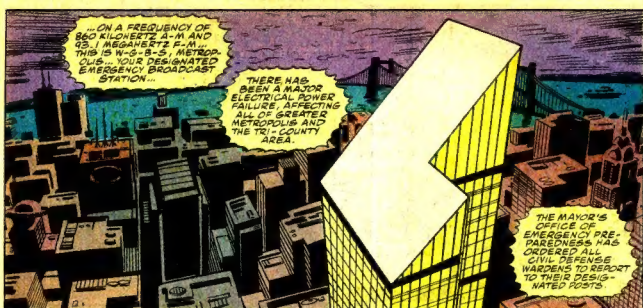
38



BY STERN, DWYER & VANGATA

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT  
THE MAN OF STEEL HAD  
FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING...

# THE ISLE THAT TIME FORGOT!



... ON A FREQUENCY OF 860 KILOHERTZ A-M AND 93.1 MEGAHERTZ F-M... THIS IS W-S-B-S, METROPOLIS... YOUR DESIGNATED EMERGENCY BROADCAST STATION...

THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR ELECTRICAL POWER FAILURE, AFFECTING ALL OF GREATER METROPOLIS AND THE TRI-COUNTY AREA.

THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS HAS ORDERED ALL CIVIL DEFENSE WARDENS TO REPORT TO THEIR DESIGNATED POSTS.

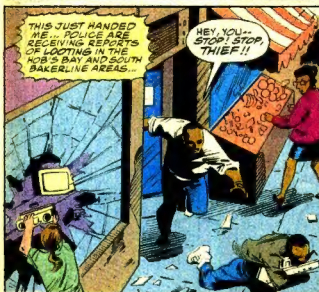


CITIZENS ARE ASKED TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS, EXCEPT IN CASES OF DIREST EMERGENCY...

...LET'S NOT OVERTAX THE SYSTEM, FOLKS.

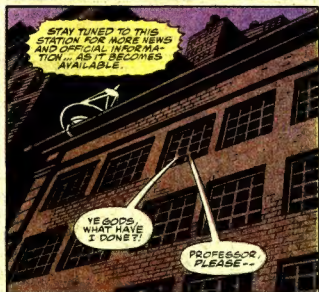


STOPLIGHTS AND OTHER ELECTRICAL WARNING SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE BLACKOUT--AND MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY DRIVING.



THIS JUST HANDED ME... POLICE ARE RECEIVING REPORTS OF LOOTING IN THE NOB'S BAY AND SCOUT BAKERLINE AREAS...

HEY, YOU-- STOP! STOP, THIEF!!



STAY TUNED TO THIS STATION FOR MORE NEWS AND OFFICIAL INFORMATION... AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE.

YE GODS, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

PROFESSOR PLEASE--

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--THIS IS NO TIME TO WORK YOURSELF INTO A DITHER!

BUT IT'S MY FAULT, MS. LANE. IT'S ALL MY FAULT!

"HE FORCED YOU TO MODIFY YOUR SATELLITE UPLINK HELMET TO GIVE HIM CONTROL OVER SUPERMAN!"

"AND ONCE YOU SHOOK OFF HIS SPELL, YOU DID EVERYTHING YOU COULD TO BREAK THAT CONTROL!"

IF ANYONE'S TO BLAME, I'D SAY IT WAS MR. Z!

#ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #484, STILL ON SALE!

YES, YES... BUT I HAD TO TAP INTO METROPOLIS'S MAIN POWER GRID TO GET ENOUGH ENERGY TO OVER-RIDE THE UPLINK HELMET! IT FRIED EVERY CIRCUIT IN MY LAB...

...NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'VE BLACKED-OUT THE ENTIRE CITY!

...AND I CAN'T EVEN BE COMPLETELY CERTAIN THAT I WAS SUCCESSFUL IN FREEING SUPERMAN! HE WAS HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, AFTER ALL!

FOR ALL I KNOW, HE'S STILL UNDER Z'S CONTROL...

"...SOMEWHERE DOWN IN THE ANTARCTIC!"

<...SO SHE SAYS "I THOUGHT IT WAS A LITTLE STALE FOR CAVIAR!"  
HAW-HAW-HAW!>

\*TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

<JEAN-CLAUDE, WE HAVE TOLERATED YOUR PATHETIC ATTEMPTS AT HUMOR FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW-->

<--BUT THERE ARE LIMITS TO OUR... EH?>

MON DIEU!

HELP... ME...



# SUPERMAN

# MISSING IN ACTION

Created by  
JERRY SIEGEL &  
JOE SHUSTER

... SOMEBODY  
... PLEASE!  
HELP ME!

ROGER STERN - WRITER  
KIERON DWYER  
GUEST PENCILER  
BRAD VANCATA  
GUEST INKER  
BILL OAKLEY • GLENN  
WHITMORE  
LETTERER COLORIST  
DAN THORSLAND - ASST.  
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR

-- with special thanks to  
story - MASTER DENNIS JANKE!



<LAY HIM DOWN HERE... GENTLY NOW! HE IS NOT A SACK OF POTATOES!>

<CALL RIGHT... ALL RIGHT!>

<HE DOES NOT LOOK AT ALL WELL.>

<PLEASE, MY FRIEND, COME SIT DOWN.>

EH?

<HE MUST BE THE REAL SUPERMAN. IF HE SURVIVED THE COLD DRESSED LIKE THAT!>



<WELL, DOCTOR--?>

<THERE ARE NUMEROUS CONTUSSIONS AND BURNS... SOME MINOR SIGNS OF EXPOSURE... BUT I CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH.>



<I AM SORRY, SUPERMAN, BUT I CAN DO NOTHING FOR HIM... HE IS DEAD.>

EXCUSE ME? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

PARDONNEZ-MOI... I HOPE MY ENGLISH IS ADEQUATE.



YOUR FRIEND IS DEAD. I AM SORRY.

WHO IS HE, SUPERMAN? WHAT HAPPENED?

I'M NOT SURE, CAN'T REMEMBER... DID YOU SAY YOU THOUGHT HE'S CALLED SUPERMAN?



QUOI?? DRESSED AS YOU ARE, YOU MUST BE THE GREAT SUPERMAN... FASTER THAN THE BULLET SPEEDS... ABLE TO BEND THE STEEL IN YOUR BARE HANDS!

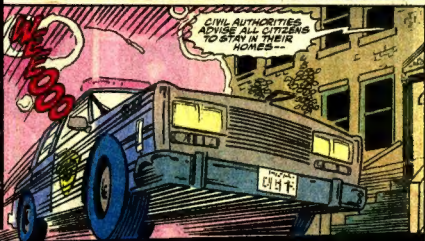
ABLE TO--?! ARE YOU CRAZY? NO ONE CAN DO THAT!

DO YOU JOKE WITH ME? WHY, I HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT YOU--

"...CAN LEAP  
THE TALLEST  
BUILDING IN A  
SINGLE BOUND!"



LOOTING HAS SPREAD  
TO THE NEIGHBORHOODS  
BORDERING THE SOUTH  
HARBOR DISTRICT, AND A  
NUMBER OF FIRES HAVE  
BEEN REPORTED.



CIVIL AUTHORITIES  
ADVISE ALL CITIZENS  
TO STAY IN THEIR  
HOMES--

...AGENCIES ARE  
RUSHING MORE GENERA-  
TORS INTO SERVICE  
FOR EMERGENCY LIGHT-  
ING, BUT WE AS YET  
HAVE NO WORD AS TO  
WHEN ELECTRICAL  
POWER WILL BE  
RESTORED.



--AND OFF THE  
STREETS! THE MAYOR  
HAS ANNOUNCED THAT  
A GENERAL CURFEW  
WILL BE IN EFFECT  
UNTIL DAWN!

OMIGOD! WHAT IS  
HAPPENING TO US? HAS  
THE WHOLE WORLD GONE  
CRAZY?

I DON'T THINK  
I CAN DEAL WITH  
THIS ANYMORE...

...I DON'T  
WANT TO  
DEAL WITH  
IT...

YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO,  
SISTER  
ROSE.

JUST  
RELAX...  
DRIFT  
AWAY...

I HAVE  
EVERYTHING  
UNDER  
CONTROL...



SILENTLY, ROSE  
FORREST ARISES  
FROM THE COUCH...

...HEARING  
NOTHING  
NOW, SAVE  
THE VOICES  
IN HER HEAD.

SWIFTLY, SHE STRIDES TO HER  
BEDROOM AND THROUGH A  
SECRET DOOR... DISCOVERED  
SO MANY YEARS AGO, AND  
NEVER REVEALED TO ANOTHER  
SOUL.

THE CORRIDOR BEYOND WAS CONSTRUCTED  
BY AN EARLIER GENERATION TO CONCEAL  
ILLEGAL ACTS. NOW IT IS A PATHWAY TO A  
YOUNG WOMAN'S OWN PRIVATE REALM.

HER POSTURE  
STRAIGHTENS,  
HER PACE  
QUICKENS, AS  
SHE STRIDES  
ALONG THIS  
HIDDEN PASSAGE  
TO HER ULTIMATE  
DESTINATION...

...AN OLD COSTUME SHOP IN A  
BUILDING WHICH WAS ABAN-  
DONED, BOARDED UP, AND ALL  
BUT FORGOTTEN DECADES AGO.

WHAT'S HAPPENING  
TO THE CITY IS A  
CRIME...

IT IS HERE THAT THE  
SHY, RETIRING  
ROSE TRULY COMES  
ALIVE!









HE'S RIGHT HERE.

YOU ARE THE GANGBUSTER, CORRECT?

UH, RIGHT.

WHAT DID YOU HIT HIM WITH?



A WALL... HERE...



... HIS BELT WILL KEEP HIM MORE MANAGEABLE.

THANKS. I... HEY, WAIT!

WHERE'RE YOU GOING? WHO ARE YOU?!



I CALL MYSELF THE THORN! AND I HAVE MUCH TO DO TONIGHT!

GOOD-BYE GANGBUSTER... KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



BUT--!



SO THAT WAS GANGBUSTER! IT IS GOOD THAT HE'S ON THE STREETS IN SUCH TROUBLED TIMES!

AND HERE I THOUGHT THAT THE THORN WAS JUST A LEGEND!



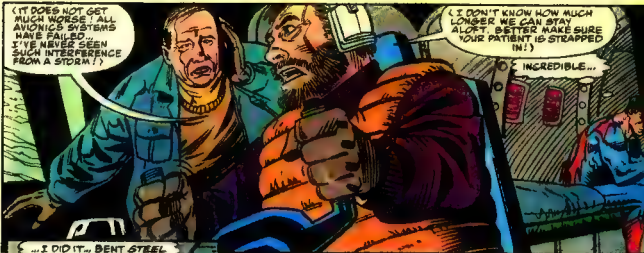
SHE CERTAINLY KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE HERSELF--



"--IN AN EMERGENCY."

!SQUARK! MAYDAY! THIS IS ALQUETTE DELTA-NINE-FIVE... POSITION !SQUEGO! LONGITUDE !35-DEGREES WEST.

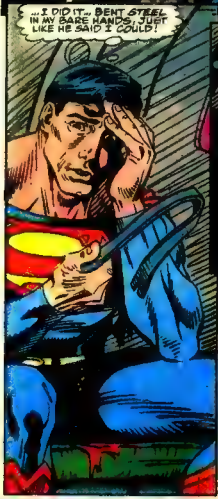
(HOW BAD IS IT?)



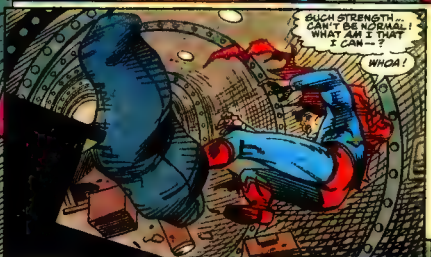
(IT DOES NOT GET MUCH WORSE! ALL AVIONICS SYSTEMS HAVE FAILED... I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH INTERFERENCE FROM A STORM!)

(I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER WE CAN STAY ALIGHT. BETTER MAKE SURE YOUR PATIENT IS STRAPPED IN!)

INCREDIBLE...



...I DID IT... BENT STEEL IN MY BARE HANDS... JUST LIKE HE SAID I COULD!



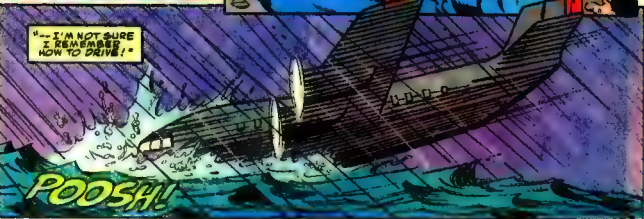
SUCH STRENGTH... CAN'T BE CRUM... WHAT AM I THAT I CAN--?

WHOOA!



SUPERMAN... YOU CAN FLY! YOU MUST HELP US!

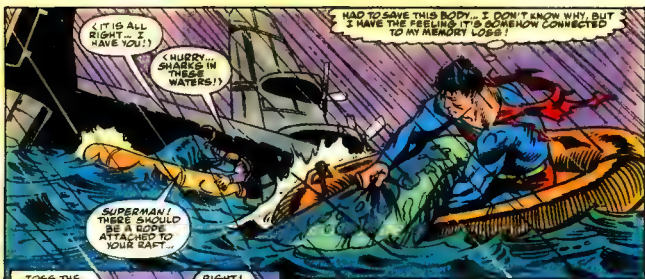
ME... FLY? DOCTOR--



"--I'M NOT SURE I REMEMBER HOW TO DRIVE!"

POOSH!





(IT IS ALL RIGHT... I HAVE YOU!)

(HURRY... SHARKS IN THESE WATERS!)

SUPERMAN! THERE SHOULD BE A ROPE ATTACHED TO YOUR RAFT...

HAD TO SAVE THIS BODY... I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I HAVE THE FEELING IT'S SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO MY MEMORY LOSS!



TOSS THE FREE END TO ME: A BETTER CHANCE WE WILL HAVE, IF WE STICK TOGETHER, EH?

RIGHT! HERE GOES--!

(IF YOU BUT HAD YOUR MEMORY YOU COULD SAVE US ALL IN AN INSTANT--)

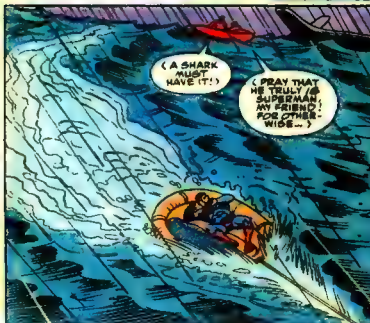


(--AND WE WOULD NOT HAVE TO BOTHER WITH A COMMON...)



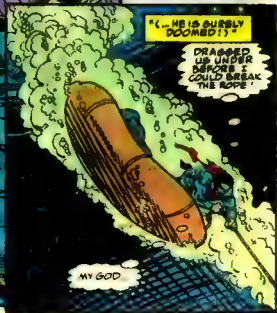
(...ROPE?)

WHIZZZZ



(A SHARK MUST HAVE IT!)

(PRAY THAT HE TRULY IS SUPERMAN, MY FRIEND! FOR OTHER-WISE--)

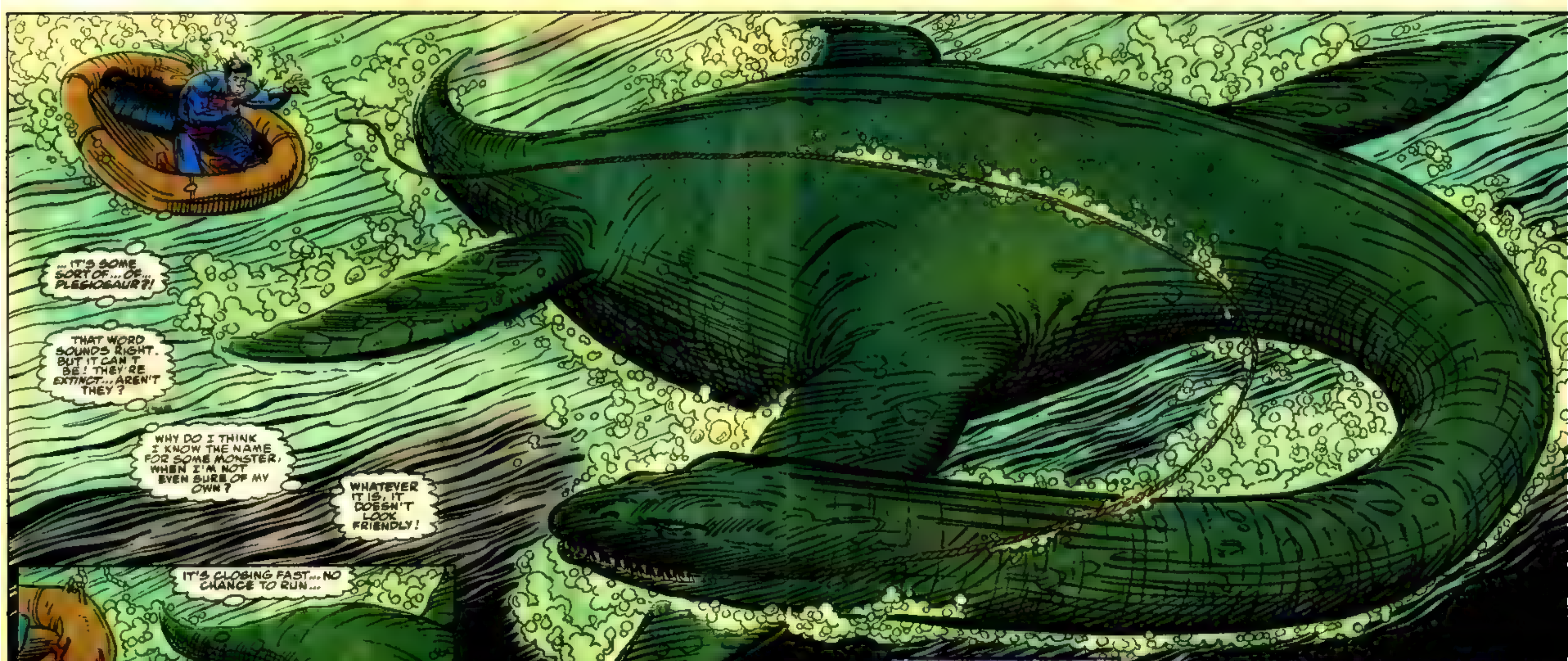


"(...HE IS OBVIOUSLY DOOMED!)"

DRAINED UP UNDER BEFORE I COULD BREAK THE ROPE!

MY GOD





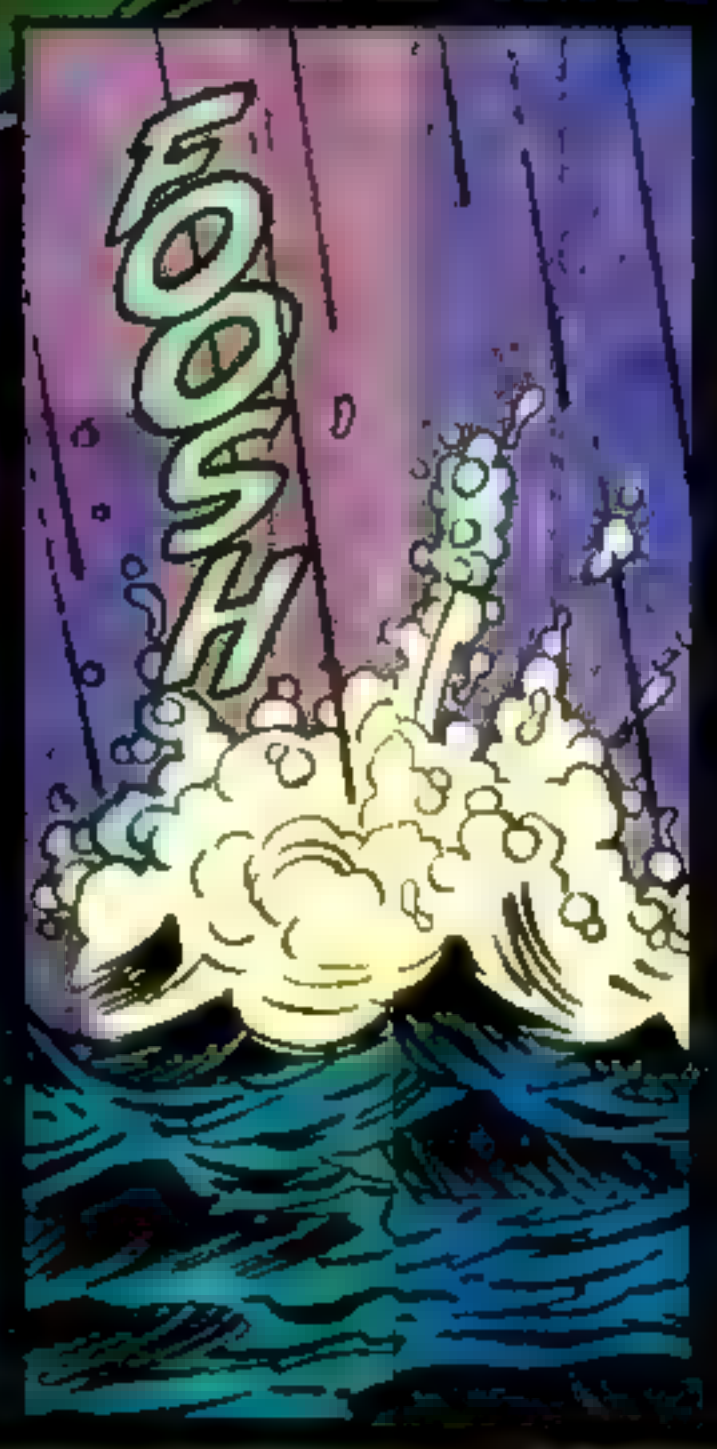
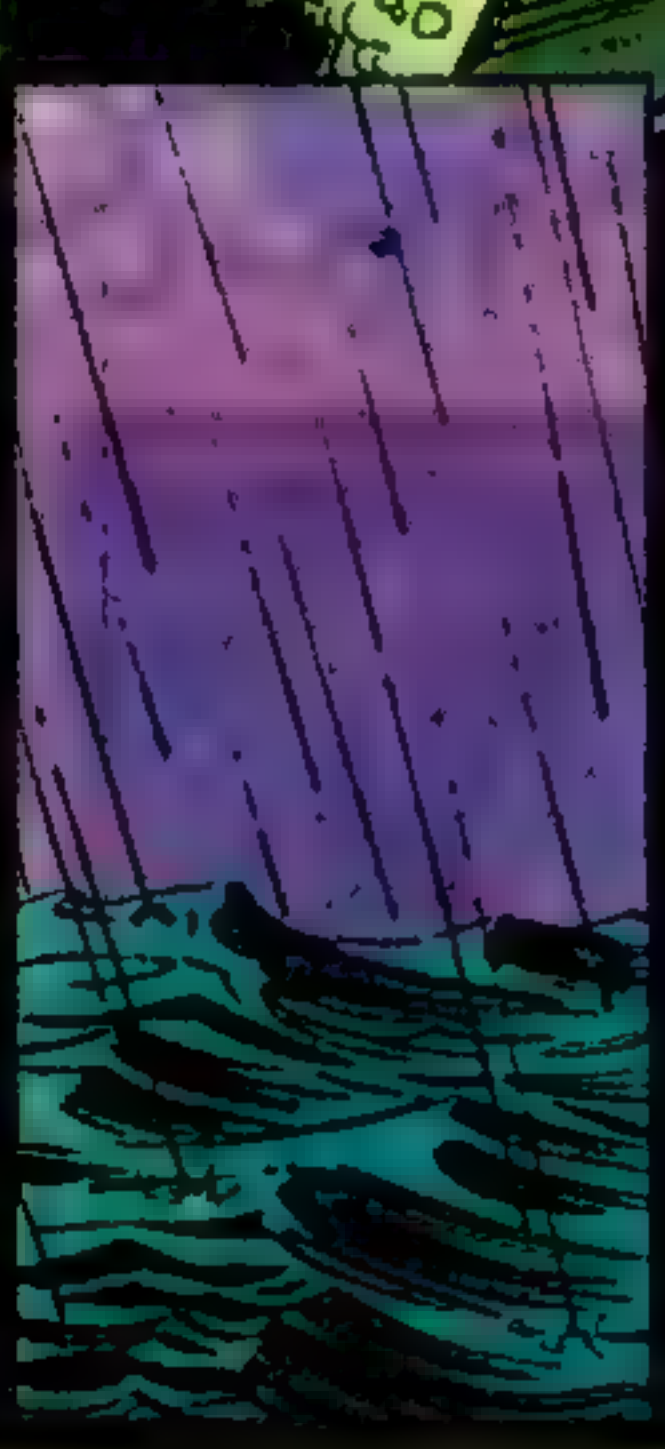
... IT'S SOME  
SORT OF... OF...  
PLESIOSAUR?!

THAT WORD  
SOUNDS RIGHT.  
BUT IT CAN'T  
BE! THEY'RE  
EXTINCT... AREN'T  
THEY?

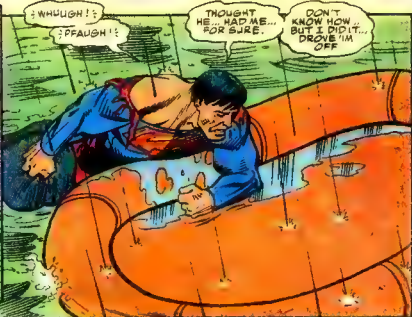
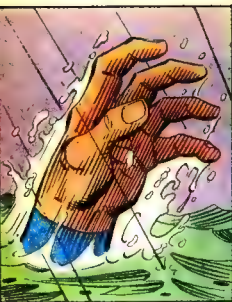
WHY DO I THINK  
I KNOW THE NAME  
FOR SOME MONSTER,  
WHEN I'M NOT  
EVEN SURE OF MY  
OWN?

WHATEVER  
IT IS, IT  
DOESN'T  
LOOK  
FRIENDLY!

IT'S CLOSING FAST... NO  
CHANCE TO RUN...





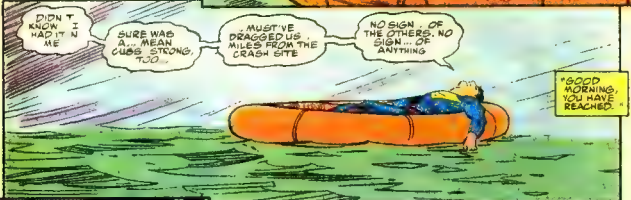


!WHUUGH!:

!PFAUGH!:

THOUGHT HE...HAD ME...FOR SURE.

DON'T KNOW HOW BUT I DID IT...DROVE 'IM OFF



DIDN'T KNOW I HAD IT IN ME

SURE WAS A...MEAN CUSS-STRONG, TOO...

MUST'VE DRAGGED US MILES FROM THE CRASH SITE

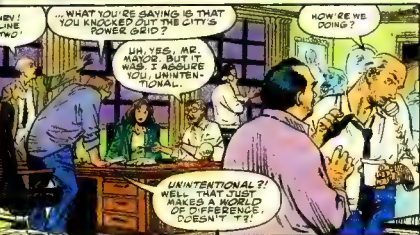
NO SIGN OF THE OTHERS. NO SIGN...OF ANYTHING

"GOOD MORNING, YOU HAVE REACHED."



"METROPOLIS CITY HALL. IF YOU ARE CALLING IN REGARD TO THE CURRENT EMERGENCY, PLEASE PRESS '1' ON YOUR TOUCH-TONE PHONE."

LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT



HEY! LINE TWO!

"...WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT YOU KNOCKED OUT THE CITY'S POWER GRID?"

HOW'RE WE DOING?

UH, YES, MR. MAYOR, BUT IT WAS, I ASSURE YOU, UNINTENTIONAL.

UNINTENTIONAL?! WELL THAT JUST MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE, DOESN'T IT?!



SORRY? I DIDN'T HEAR YOU.

I CAN THROW AWAY THESE REPORTS OF FIRES AND LOOTINGS! YOU DIDN'T MEAN "...IT WAS UNINTENTIONAL!"

WHY DON'T YOU JUST SHOOT ME AND MAKE A QUICK JOB OF IT?!

WHAT?!

WAIT A MINUTE--

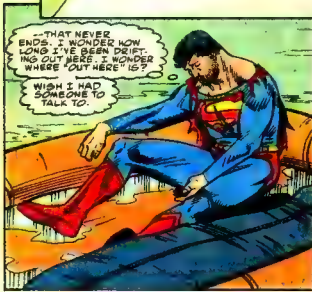


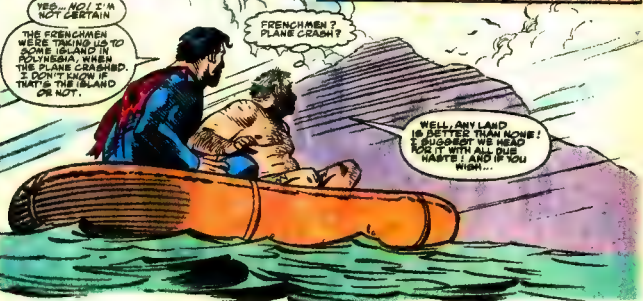
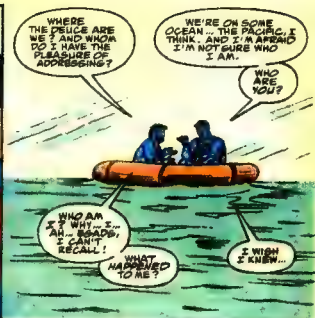


...polis. As promised, I pledge all the resources of LexCorp to helping Metropolis in its hour of need.

*Lex Luthor II*  
—Lex Luthor—

"IT'S LIKE SOME CRAZY DREAM--"







...I CAN TELL ME MORE OF YOUR  
INCREDIBLE STORY ALONG THE WAY.

OH, REALLY? PULLED  
UNDERWATER BY A  
MONSTER? AND NOW,  
PRAY TELL, DID YOU  
EVER ESCAPE?

I... I JUST KEPT HITTING  
IT, AND IT FINALLY SWAM  
AWAY

I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY--  
I DON'T QUITE BELIEVE IT  
MYSELF-- BUT IT HAPPENED!  
ANYWAY, AT LEAST WE'RE FINALLY  
HERE AND WE'RE SAFE.

AND WE'RE  
NOT THE FIRST  
PEOPLE TO HAVE LANDED  
ON THIS SHORE. MAYBE  
WE CAN FIND THEM AND  
FIND OUT WHERE  
WE ARE

POSSIBLE, BUT  
NOT PROBABLE.  
THAT WRECK  
APPEARS TO BE A  
WARSHIP OF SOME  
VINTAGE. YES,  
HERE'S AN OLD  
BAYONET

...ANY  
SURVIVORS  
WOULD BE  
QUITE OLD  
BY NOW!

DECEADLY HOT  
HERE. WE'D  
BEST DISPENSE  
WITH UNNEEDED  
CLOTHES.

HOT?  
CRAY

IF  
YOU SAY  
SO.

HE SEEMS PLEASANT,  
IF A BIT BOBBY. I  
SHOULD TRY TO GET  
ALONG WITH HIM. WE  
MAY BE HERE A WHILE

HMM... WHAT A  
STRANGE DESIGN... LIKE  
A VERY STYLIZED "S."  
I WONDER...

THE  
DOCTOR KEPT  
CALLING ME  
"SUPERMAN."  
DOES THAT MEAN  
ANYTHING TO  
YOU?

NOT IN THE  
SLIGHTEST. DOESN'T  
SOUND LIKE A NAME  
PERHAPS. H-S ENGLISH  
WASN'T THAT GOOD.  
CERTAINLY WASN'T MUCH  
OF A DOCTOR IF HE  
THOUGHT ME DEAD!

BUT YOU  
WERE--

WELL, I'M  
ALIVE NOW, AND  
I'M FAMISHED!  
THOSE COCONUTS  
LOOK READY FOR  
THE PICKING!

THEY'RE  
PRETTY HIGH  
UP. HOW WILL  
WE GET  
THEM?



THERE YOU GO! YOU CAN DO IT! JUST A LITTLE FARTHER! RE-E-BACH!

STUPID QUESTION!

OH, WELL, I AM IN BETTER SHAPE THAN HE IS!

THAT'S IT! YOU'RE DOING FINE!

JUST MAKE SURE YOU KEEP A FIRM GRIP ON THE TRUNK!

WHOOOP!

WHOOA!

!?!?: I STOPPED!

I AM NOT FALLING!

EH?

THIS IS MUCH EASIER!

CATCH IT FRIEND!

G-GOT IT!

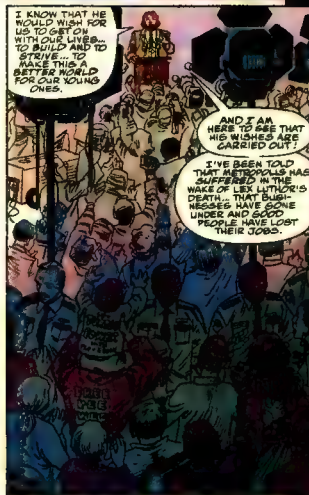
THIS IS TRULY INCREDIBLE! YOU'RE NOT JUST STANDING IN MIDAIR..

...YOU'RE FLYING! YOU'RE ACTUALLY FLYING!

"I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS"









"...WE WILL OVERCOME THE SUFFERING AND THE PAIN!"

GAAH!

NOT SO TIGHT!

ALL RIGHT I'M ALMOST DONE!

I WISH THAT YOU HADN'T TRIED TO FLY FROM THAT TREE YOU'RE LUCKY ALL YOU DID WAS SPRAIN AN ANKLE!

UHHN... IT'S NOT FAIR! WHY IS IT THAT YOU CAN FLY, AND I CAN'T?

I DON'T KNOW. WHY IS IT THAT WE CAN'T REMEMBER OUR OWN NAMES?

I WISH I HAD THE ANSWERS, FRIEND, BUT LIFE ISN'T ALWAYS FAIR

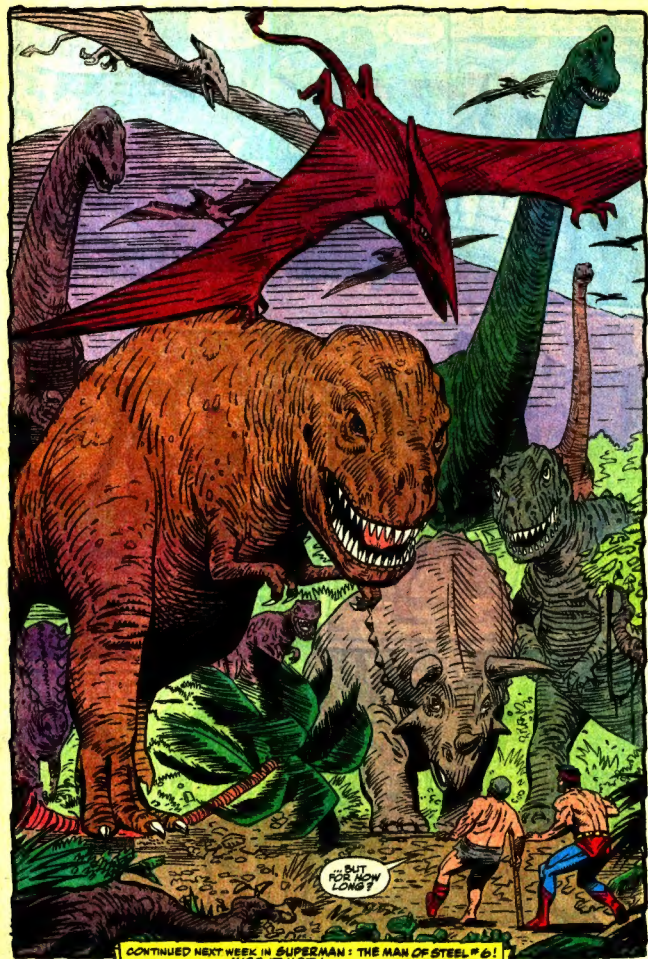
TRY TO LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE... YOUR ANKLE MAY HURT NOW.

OUFF! IT DOES, NEED!

... BUT IT WILL GET BETTER! WE BOTH HAVE FULL STOMACHS... WE'RE ALIVE AND WELL AND SAFE--!

WHAT ON EARTH--?!

YOU SPOKE TOO SOON, MY FRIEND! ALIVE WE MAY BE



CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #6!**  
MISS IT NOT!



# RE:ACTION

DC COMICS INC.

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Dear Mike, et al.:

This is my very first letter to you guys, and I hope this gets published. I was going to write to the letter column of *MAN OF STEEL* #1, but I thought otherwise. Why? Because I was impressed by the wrapping up of the Krypton Man/Eradicator storyline in *ACTION COMICS* #667 and I want to congratulate all of you for doing a great, wonderful and superb job eradicating the Eradicator! Fabulous drawings made my day! Art Thibert draws a great Hamilton! The art of Jon Bogdanove was great! The colors, the dialogue...everything! This is a job well done by all of the writers of Superman! I think a collected edition of the Krypton Man/Eradicator storyline (from *ACTION COMICS* #650 to #667) is due!

Of course there is another reason for writing to you guys. I was surprised to see something odd. Or was I imagining things? On page 37 of *ACTION* #667 Superman was helping the guys glue back Lincoln, right? And Lincoln was comfortably ensconced in his throne, right? But *ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN* #480 says otherwise. On page 28 of *AOS*, Krypton Man/Eradicator reconstructed Abe with matching Kryptonian robe, right? Right! And he is standing, mind you! How come in *ACTION* #667, Abe's back to his old form, sitting once more and in his old self and clothes again? Just asking.

Nevertheless, I enjoyed reading all of the four titles. The stories are more down-to-earth. The deaths of Luthor and his son make it seem more in touch with reality, which brings me to ask this question: Who will inherit all of Luthor's fortune? Don't you think we've been kept in the dark long enough? And speaking of Luthor, is the Baldy Award in memory of him now that he's gone? Or is there more to it than that?

Again, congratulations on a job superbly done by the whole team! Will there be an encore?

Ray P. Beltran  
Quezon City, Philippines

When the Eradicator was destroyed, all of the molecular transformations he performed reverted back to their original form. Without his sun-derived energies maintaining the alteration, ol' Abe went back to being plain old rubble. As for an encore, we do it each and every week. *Rey. Hope you join us!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Mike:

I really enjoyed the "Last Son of Krypton" storyline. I've found many of your recent multi-part stories to be a little weak and stretched very thin, particularly the prolonged time travel storyline of a few weeks ago and the "Red Glass" three-parter which could have been a one- or two-parter. But not so with this one! Good characterization, good use of the supporting cast, good art, and the

key element of any good super-hero story—a truly dangerous threat which the hero really has to work to overcome.

There is one bone I have to pick with you, however, and many other artists in the comic book industry. I know that the majority of people in the industry are white, but haven't they even seen someone of another color? In the "Last Son of Krypton" storyline, we are treated to the return of Jose Delgado. He's supposed to be Hispanic, right? Why is his skin red? He was colored the way you color Indians. Native Americans are called the "Red Man," but they aren't red either. The only people who are the color that Jose was in these past four issues are white people who are really, really sunburned.

And check out that guy in the foreground of panel four on page 10 of *ADVENTURES* #480! What the heck race does he belong to? His skin is grayish-purple! I've seen a lot of people with a lot of different ethnic backgrounds, but I've never seen somebody who looked like that!

Anyone who has tried to mix paint to be the color of Caucasian skin knows that it is a frustrating task trying to get the exact tone, but colorists in the comics were able to come up with it almost sixty years ago. Why, then, do they have such trouble with the other skin tones? In the comics, Asians are all a light orange, Indians are a rosy red, and all blacks are a single uniform shade of brown. As to the color any other race will turn out to be, it's a crap shoot.

For the past several years, many writers and artists have gone to great lengths to try to show more diversity of race and ethnicity in comics. Why, then, can't they do something as simple as giving them the right skin color, or at least a realistic skin color? What is the point of including a variety of different races if you're not going to take the care to at least draw them correctly? I think it would be more respectful to those of us who aren't white to just omit non-white characters rather than do a half baked job of it.

Chris Brown  
Milford, CT

We wish it were that simple, Chris, but the type of color separation used in your average dollar comic book is very limited, and we don't have a wide selection of skin tones to work with. And honestly, would it be fair to non-Caucasian people to be excluded from a comic book because of printing limitations? We don't think so.

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Dear Dan:

Now, I know you guys have heard this one many times already, but Lex Luthor isn't dead! Forget about any Bizarro machines or mountain monks; a careful examination of Lex's thought process

and a few other things provides some pretty good evidence of Lex's fate. See, back in *ACTION COMICS* #660, Lex is thinking to himself about how he used to be so great and innovative and successful. He recalls others of greatness: Neil Armstrong, John Glenn, and Charles Lindbergh. At the name Lindbergh, he stops and seems to get a bright idea. Later on in this issue, he's trying to set a record in flight, just like Lindbergh did, but that wasn't what Lex thought back at the office. Unless I'm mistaken, I believe that Mr. Lindbergh died of cancer in Hawaii. Now Lex, who was dying of cancer as well, may have decided to drop by an island (in the Caribbean, though). Mr. Lindbergh had also been in Hawaii with his wife, so now we know where Dr. Kelley wound up. Though she's not his wife, she is the father of Lex's kid. What about the body and the crash? In the Newsboy Legion backup feature, Dabney Donovan, a man who faked his own death, mentioned that he made a deal with LexCorp. Also, remember that Donovan works in genetics and clones. And, when Lex was thinking in his office, he said, "It's time to start making miracles again." Most people know, whether they believe it or not, that the greatest miracle ever chronicled was Christ's resurrection from the dead. I wouldn't put it beyond Luthor to "re-create" this miracle. In his triumphant return to Metropolis he would achieve a couple of things. First of all, the chaos that ensued after his "death" was a pretty good torture of Superman. And secondly, coming back from the dead would make Lex seem almost god-like, a stature that Superman could never reach. Now, because he has cancer, Lex will die one way; after all, many readers, myself included, would not be pleased if Lex were able to cheat an illness that kills so many people in the real world.

Then again, maybe Lex died in the first place.

Stephen Totillo  
Peekskill, NY

Seeing is believing. Kelley has been in Australia all this time, and Lex Jr. has a nice, thick head of hair, so relax and believe already!

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Dear Scientists:

Well, it had to happen. I refer to the design change in the *ACTION COMICS* logo. The fact is, it's the Superman logo that gets the kids in the door. Believe it or not, many new readers wouldn't know the difference between an *ACTION COMICS* and a *CAPTAIN ACTION* comic. At least you did not change the title outright to *SUPERMAN: THE ACTION ACE*. Just do me—and other sentimental nostalgists—a favor and resurrect the original logo from time to time—on anniversary or other special issues.

Now, regarding this month's special 154-page storyline, it was not shown but did the people of Metropolis happen to look up and see in the night sky those Northern lights? Or was it too stormy? I ask because at the time ACTION COMICS #667 came out in my world there was in fact solar flare activity causing geomagnetic disturbances resulting in the Aurora being visible further south than normal. Since the flares were even more severe in the DC Universe, it is reasonable to assume the Lights were seen at near latitudes—it must have been a comforting sight amid all the turmoil. Just another Flash Fact.

As for jam art, while it does allow the reader to have a kind of catalogue of various pencil/ink combos, I much prefer a single vision throughout a story. It was a treat to see comics legends like Swan and Mooney being inked by Ordway. I liked the character that Rodier's inks gave to the faces of the Kents and the Whites. And Art Thibert's solo flight was simply amazing. Your writers continue to impress me with how seamlessly their scripts fit together. Nevertheless, I look forward to future issues when the creative teams on their respective titles will focus on areas particularly suited to their expertise rather than these intricately plotted multi-part extravaganzas. Not that I expect an end to continuity between one book and the other, but rather a pulling of focus, where one plotline is foregrounded in ACTION but becomes a mere background concern in the other titles, which themselves would each have their own main plots. I notice, for instance, that Dan Jurgens has a good handle on Jimmy Olsen, while Cat and Jose seem to be Ordway's characters, and Roger Stern has a nice way with the Lois and Clark relationship. Anyway, like the man says, keep watch in the skies.

Jim Kelly  
Vancouver, British Columbia,  
Canada

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To Dan, Mike, Roger, Jerry, Jim, Tom, Art, Jon, Curt, Dan J., Dennis, Bill, and Glenn (Ouch!):

I have been a Superman fan since SUPERMAN #11, the first appearance of "the Imp from the Fifth Dimension," as the (unfortunately very) late Lex Luthor called him. I was already a comics fan, but I was mostly a purchaser of the comics of your chief competitor. As far as I can recall, the only comic from your company I was purchasing was STAR TREK. I am now a rising junior in college, and situations have changed somewhat. I now buy only one comic from your competitor, while the bulk of my reading is DC material. This is the first letter I have ever mailed to a comic, but I have written a few that, due to laziness, never found the mailbox. No more! I was so excited that Superman was going to have four titles to his name; he is, in my opinion, one of the few characters published today who truly deserves the title "hero." ACTION COMICS #667, pages 8 and 9, and 20-23 stand out in my mind as awesome examples of that. This four-part story was incredible! Jon Bogdanove and Tom Grummett will make incredible additions to the team that produces the best Art in comics today (and I don't just mean Thibert). When I first started collecting Superman, Jerry, your art just didn't appeal to me. But I am a comics artist myself, and as I matured, I started to realize the depth of your talent. You are truly amazing.

One of the few (unfortunately!) really old back issues I have is ACTION #341, published six years and two months before I was even born! In the letters page the editors responded to a letter praising single-issue stories, saying, "We have a contempt for lazy editors and writers who elongate their stories by 'padding' the action because they can't think of a clever ending or a surprise twist to end the tale. Instead they use the old 'cliffhanger' technique—which went out of style in magazines decades ago." Well, to quote a popular advertising slogan, you've come a long way, (super) baby! The "padding" the editor was referring to was the character development that your competition was introducing for the first time, but has forgotten over the years, preferring the "slice and dice" method of storytelling. DC has picked up where they left off, and has taken character development to new heights. Your characters, even the "minor" ones, are three-dimensional and real. And the cliffhangers that have occurred at the ends of each of the four parts of this story have been natural and exciting, not a gimmick, and not cheap. You are not afraid of making major changes in what has always been conceived of as Superman's "mythos," while not changing the basics of who Superman really is. The engagement of Clark and Lois, the presence of Ma and Pa Kent, and the (unfortunately permanent) death of Lex Luthor, have emphasized this. Thank you for not abandoning the heart and soul of your books, the characters. And thank you for putting the undisputed king of super-heroes back on his rightful throne.

Denes House  
Clinton, NY

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Dear Dan:

Ha! I knew it would take a device to defeat the Eradicator. OK, I guessed it would be a Kryptonian device instead of the obvious gemstone. I was blind—hit me on the head with a Marvel book, but I was close.

Melissa Page  
Nortonville, KY

P.S. Geesh, even the four title headings have continuity now.

Okay, Melissa, we'll hit you with a new Captain Marvel book sometime soon!

Uh, which one of us on the Super-team is "Geesh"?

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Dear Dan:

Just got to express my appreciation for the terrific work that you, Captain Mike and the rest of the creative people in the "Super-Stable" are doing. I support your efforts 100%, and now that we lucky people get Superman four times a month, it only gets better.

Perhaps you can enlighten us fans as to Denis Rodier's appearance as Bob McLeod's inker in SUPERMAN #57. I like the shine he puts on the characters, especially the Kents. I vaguely remember that, a few months back at a convention I was attending, both Bob and Denis were guests. I also vaguely remember that they seemed to like each other's work. Could it be that he's here up in Toronto, Canada? I witnessed part of comics history? Well, maybe it's not that important, but, tell me what I (ahem), we want to hear. Dan. Go ahead, tell me (us).

Alex Luo  
Ontario, Canada

You're dead right, Alex, Bob and Denis chatted over lunch during that very convention and pitched "Captain Mike" on the idea of Denis inking ACTION. We're impressed with their collaboration and your memory. So impressed, in fact, that we're going to send you a Baldy award to commemorate the occasion! Congratulations!

—Ensign Dan Thorsland  
Still Pathetically Unfunny

IN ONE WEEK: in SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #6—Well, you folks out there said we would never let Clark and Lois marry, and you may be right! Because Superman is getting married, but not to Lois! Yes, the still-befuddled Man of Steel has caught the eye of the daughter of the island chief, and she wants him as a husband whether he realizes it or not! Will he figure it out before it's too late, or will the wedding further suppress his memories of his life in Metropolis? Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and Dennis Janke have all the answers in "Blackout" Part Three...next week!

IN TWO WEEKS: in SUPERMAN #62, Metropolis has seen better days, and Gangbuster, Thorn, and Agent Liberty are keeping things under control, but just barely! Someone has to find the missing Man of Steel, and Lois isn't going to wait around. With the help of Professor Hamilton and Guardian, Lois is hot on the trail of her missing fiancé. Little does she know that he may already be on a honeymoon without her! Be here for "Blackout" Part Four, by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding. The sparks are sure to fly!

IN THREE WEEKS: Lois has found Clark, but can she keep him? No amount of talking—or kissing—can break Superman's amnesia. Who, or what, can? Don't miss THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #485, the mesmerizing conclusion of "Blackout," by Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood.

IN ONE MONTH: We know you have a lot of questions, and in ACTION COMICS #672, we'll give you all the answers when Superman meets the new kid on the block...Lex Luthor Jr.! Roger Stern, Bob McLeod, and Denis Rodier tell all!

And let us not forget the beastly cover that graces this very issue, which was laid out by Dan Jurgens and finished by Bob McLeod. Give em' a hand, or we'll send that critter after you to take one!





“...AND SCANNING FOR ALL!”

BeastCharming:  
Not quite Big Blue,  
but he's halfway there!

